

Iron Soldiers case 'Colors', prepare to depart Iraq

By Staff Sgt. Tony Sailer, 1AD PAO

BAGHDAD, Iraq – In a brief, early-morning ceremony, Task Force 1st Armored Division cased its banners and flags, signifying its departure from the Operation Iraqi Freedom area of operation July 4.

The longest deployment of any division in Iraq, the 1AD spent an unprecedented 15 months in a combat zone. Task Force 1st Armored Division was the largest division-based task force in U.S. Army history and it secured some of Baghdad's roughest neighborhoods and brought stability to the city and its surrounding countryside.

Since last year, the Task Force has protected and improved the quality of life for over 5 million Iraqi residents in the city of Baghdad.

After turning the city over to the 1st Cavalry Division April 15, the task force headed south to pacify the cities of Najaf, Diwaniyah, Al Kut and Karbala.

"Your performance in Baghdad showed a clear indication of the kind of professionalism that Iron Soldiers have always had," Lt. Gen. Thomas Metz, Multi-National Corps – Iraq commander, said.

"Iron Soldiers have great discipline, great precision," Metz continued. "I can assure you that the world watched as Iron Soldiers etched a place in history during your extension. Military history will note the tremendous tactical maneuvers of the Iron Soldiers. You can be very proud of that."

The early morning ceremony saw representatives from the division's units give honors to the accomplishments of its soldiers and then roll and sheath their unit's flags and guidons that represent each unit.

Afterwards, 1AD Commander, Maj. Gen. Martin Dempsey applauded his Soldiers and remarked about the significance of their accomplishments.

"Fifteen months ago," Dempsey said, "Iron Soldiers of 1AD and Dragoons of 2nd Armored Cavalry Regiment formed a Task Force and set out to make the world safer for their fellow Americans and provide an opportunity for the Iraqi people to be free. They did that."

Dempsey reminded the Soldiers



Commanders and their command sergeants major from 1st Armored Division case their unit's colors, signifying the end of the division's 15-month deployment to Iraq, during a ceremony July 4 at Baghdad International Airport. (Photo by Marine Corps Sgt. M. Trent Lowry)

after handing Baghdad to the 1st Cavalry Division that his words to the Cavalry were brief and to the point: "talking ain't fighting. Let's get about that business."

The task force was to "continue mission" in a new location, he said.

"Three months ago," Dempsey continued, "the same group of Soldiers were asked to remain in Iraq to defeat a militia uprising and preserve the path to an Iraqi sovereignty. They did that, too. I hope you are as proud of what you have accomplished as I am of you."

Among the Task Force's accomplishments during its 15 months of duty included planning and executing Operations Iron Hammer, Iron Justice, Iron Grip, Longstreet, Iron Bullet, Iron Promise and Iron Sabre. During these task force operations, Soldiers captured more than 700 criminals and former regime insurgents. They also confiscated thousands of rockets, mortars, tank rounds, rocket-propelled grenades and small arms.

Iron Soldiers have also supervised an estimated \$2 billion in community improvements to Baghdad, rebuilt the failing infrastructure, and restored the public utilities, facilities and services,

refurbished war-damaged buildings and repaired roads.

Those missions and achievements will be symbolized by a battle streamer attached to the division's colors, Dempsey said.

"The colors we have just cased are part of what defines us," announced Dempsey. "Sometime soon we will add a battle streamer to those colors. That simple strip of silk will represent many things.

"It will represent more than a year of your life. It will represent your 135 fellow soldiers who gave their lives for this mission and who made the journey home ahead of us. It will represent your great courage in battle. It will represent your remarkable stamina over these past 15 months.

"It will represent your unshakable honor tested in the most complex environment imaginable. It will represent your immeasurable sacrifice and that of your families.

"Forever more it will represent you," Dempsey said. "These are truly your colors now. You have earned the right to stand tall behind them."



Quote of the Day...

"The will of the people is the only legitimate foundation of any government, and to protect its free expression should be our first object."

-- Thomas Jefferson (1743-1826), 3rd US President



Major Gen. Martin Dempsey, commanding general 1st Armored Division, and Command Sgt. Maj. Michael Bush, 1AD command sergeant major, prepare the unit colors for casing during a ceremony at Baghdad International Airport July 4. (Photo by Marine Corps Sgt. M. Trent Lowry, 1AD PAO)

Oddly Enough...

Mud from Rainy Rock Music Festival Sells for \$890

LONDON (Reuters) - A dollop of mud scooped up during last weekend's Glastonbury music festival in Britain has sold for 490 pounds (\$890) on the Internet auction site Ebay.

"Stored in a plastic bag this should arrive nice and damp with the early Glastonbury dew still soaking into it," reads the seller's description.

The mud was collected from the front of the main Pyramid stage where Oasis, Morrissey and Paul McCartney performed.

Festival fans can still snap up mud, in some cases with an accompanying rubber Wellington boot, for a few pence on the Web site.

Chaplain's Thought for the Day...

The Master verses Novice Chess Player

Chess, as its devotees would testify, is a game of strategy and precision. The difference between a Chess Master and a novice is the ability of the master to think 15 or 20 moves ahead in a game. Whereas a novice player tends to simply react to his opponent or follow a short term strategy; the Chess Master plays with great expertise and plans his moves according to a strategy that actually incorporates his opponent's moves into his plan. The difference between a novice and a master playing chess, is the same difference found between myself and God planning the course of my life. My decision making tends to be reactive and more often then not focused upon short term goals. God's plan for my life, flows from his perfect knowledge of me and the world and thus creates the possibility for long term success. His design for me takes into consideration the 'moves of his opponent', and utilizes life's hard times to make me stronger in both mind and spirit. I encourage you to trust in the Master's plan and seek his guidance as you consider your path into tomorrow.

Today in History...

(Historynet.com)

1776 The Declaration of Independence is first printed by John Dunlop in Philadelphia.

1806 A Spanish army repels the British during their attempt to retake Buenos Aires, Argentina.

1814 U.S. troops under Jacob Brown defeat a superior British force at Chippewa, Canada.

1832 The German government begins curtailing freedom of the press after German Democrats advocate a revolt against Austrian rule.

1839 British naval forces bombard Dingai on Zhoushan Island in China and occupy it.

1863 Federal troops occupy Vicksburg, Mississippi and distribute supplies to the citizens.

1892 Andrew Beard is issued a patent for the rotary engine.

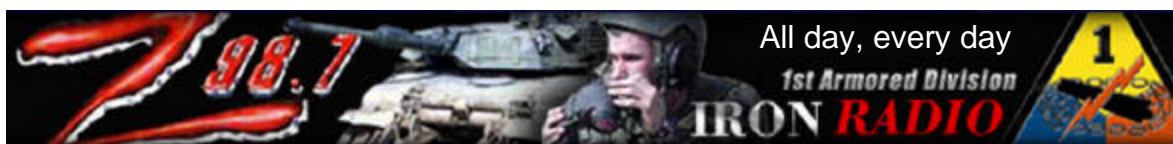
1940 Marshal Henri Petain's Vichy government breaks off diplomatic relations with Great Britain.

1941 German troops reach the Dnieper River in the Soviet Union.

1943 The Battle of Kursk, the largest tank battle in history, begins.

1944 The Japanese garrison on Numfoor, New Guinea, tries to counterattack but is soon beaten back by U.S. forces.

1950 American forces engage the North Koreans for the first time at Osan, South Korea.



U.S. Army Division Prepares to Leave Iraq
By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

BAGHDAD, Iraq (AP) -- The Army's 1st Armored Division stowed its flags Sunday and prepared to head home after the longest tour in Iraq of any American combat command -- 15 months.

Even though it arrived after the collapse of Saddam Hussein's regime, the Germany-based division saw 135 of its soldiers killed -- mostly fighting Iraqi guerrillas. It was in the midst of pulling out of Iraq in April when a pair of violent guerrilla uprisings halted its departure.

The division's dead make up about 16 percent of the 858 U.S. troops killed since the war started in March 2003. More than 1,100 1st Armored soldiers were wounded.

"We have learned a lot about the price of freedom," 1st Armored commander Maj. Gen. Martin Dempsey said during a 4th of July ceremony for the division and its companion 2nd Armored Cavalry Regiment.

"We learned that people experiencing freedom for the first time may not understand how fragile it can be and how much sacrifice may be required to earn it and preserve it," he added.

Dempsey said the division's work in Baghdad and Shiite Muslim cities to the south helped guide the country through a rough year of occupation en route to sovereignty, which was restored last week.

Now, Iraqis have the freedom to reshape the country on their own, said Dempsey, who was promoted from a one-star to a two-star general during his tour in Iraq.

The division is packing and shipping its mountains of gear to Kuwait, then to Germany. The entire unit is expected to be out of Iraq by July 15.

Soldiers are eager to see family and friends, relax out of danger and drink beer -- since U.S. troops are banned from drinking in Iraq.

"I had a son born last July while I was here. He just celebrated his first birthday and he's just about ready to walk so I hope to make it home to see that," said Maj. David Gercken, the division's public affairs officer.

The heavy division known as "Old Ironsides" rolled into Baghdad in late April 2003 -- just before President Bush declared major combat at an end. The troops occupied the capital until March, when they handed control to the Army's Texas-based 1st Cavalry Division.

While in Baghdad, the 1st Armored was engaged in a counterinsurgency war with more than a dozen guerrilla cells, successfully dismantling some and capturing many rebel leaders and financiers.

Urban guerrilla warfare, with its heavy use of intelligence, computer analysis and pinpoint raids, was far removed from the type of tank maneuver battles the division was created to fight.

The division also trained Iraqi police and national guardsmen, renovated schools, established neighborhood councils and spent \$60 million on these and other projects.

After the upsurge of violence in April, Lt. Gen. Ricardo Sanchez, the top U.S. commander in Iraq, extended the division's stay in Iraq by three months. Sanchez sent the 1st Armored to fight a rebel Shiite Muslim militia south of Baghdad and protect the U.S. military convoy routes on the highways south and west of the capital.

The division and its companion unit, the Louisiana-based 2nd Armored Cavalry, eventually routed the Shiite militia led by radical cleric Muqtada al-Sadr.

Those extra three months cost the lives of more than 40 of the division's soldiers. The division's deputy commander, Brig. Gen. Mark Hertling, said more than 1,000 of al-Sadr's insurgents were killed in that same period.

At its peak, the 1st Armored was one of the largest in the history of the U.S. Army, with more than 36,000 troops under Dempsey's command.

About 160,000 foreign troops, mostly American, have stayed on under a U.N. mandate to promote security after Monday's handover of sovereignty to the new interim government.

The overall number of U.S. troops will drop slightly when the 20,000 or so soldiers with the 1st Armored leave.

They are being replaced by about 12,000 fresh troops, including a brigade combat team from the Army's Fort Drum, N.Y.-based 10th Mountain Division and the 11th Marine Expeditionary Unit from Camp Pendleton, Calif., and the 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit from Camp Lejeune, N.C.

The next U.S. troops scheduled to leave Iraq are the Army's Stryker Brigade -- 3rd Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division based at Fort Lewis, Wash. -- followed by the Germany-based 1st Infantry Division.

Reenlistment Bonus Incentives continue.

The Army continues to pay soldiers for remaining part of the team. Recently, some bonuses have been retroactive as far back as March 18, 2003.

If a Soldier reenlisted between March 18 and Sept. 18, 2003 for either option E1 (Regular Army) or E2 (Current station stabilization) and did not receive a bonus, he or she should contact their Career Counselor and see if they qualify for the bonus.

The most current update to the Selective Reenlistment Bonus program is MILPER Message 04-163 dated 05/14/2004.

myafn.net TV SCHEDULES: MONDAY, JULY 05, 2004				As of: Monday, July 05, 2004 12:49:04 AM		
Start Time	SPORTS	ATLANTIC	SPECTRUM	PACIFIC	NEWS	Start Time
00:00	SPORTSCENTER (NN)		HILL STREET BLUES (TVPG): - TRIAL BY FURY	ESPNEWS	TIM RUSSERT (NN)	00:00
00:30	BASEBALL TONIGHT (NN)			ESPNEWS		00:30
01:00	SPORTS SPECIAL (NN) - MLB ALL-STAR SELECTION SHOW	HEADLINE NEWS (NN)	RUGRATS (TVY): - DISCOVERING AMERICA	SESAME STREET	FOX REPORT (NN)	01:00
01:30		SEINFELD (TV14): - THE PIE	SPONGEBOB SQUAREPANTS (TVY): - NASTY PATTY/ THE IDIOT BOX			01:30
02:00	MLB (NN) - CHICAGO WHITE SOX @ CHICAGO CUBS	THAT 70'S SHOW (TVPG): - THE THIRD WHEEL	THE SIMPSONS (TVPG): - GRANDPA VS. SEXUAL INADEQUACY	DORA THE EXPLORER (TVY): - TO THE SOUTH POLE	THIS WEEK (NN)	02:00
02:30		ENTERTAINMENT TONIGHT (TVPG):	HAPPY DAYS (TVG): - RICHIE'S FLIP SIDE	WHEEL OF FORTUNE (TVG):		02:30
03:00			AVERAGE JOE: HAWAII (TV14): - THREE HUNKS AND THREE JOES SENT HOME!	THE DR. PHIL SHOW (TVPG):	DATELINE INTERNATIONAL (NN)	03:00
03:30		WWE SMACKDOWN! (TV14):				03:30
04:00			LAW & ORDER: SPECIAL VICTIMS UNIT (TV14): - PROTECTION	THE OPRAH WINFREY SHOW (TVPG):	60 MINUTES (NN)	04:00
04:30		AMERICA'S BLACK FORUM (NN)				04:30
05:00	SPORTSCENTER (NN)	MEET THE PRESS (NN)	MONSTER GARAGE (TVPG): - UNDER THE HOOD	HEADLINE NEWS (NN)	CNN PRESENTS (NN)	05:00
05:30				JUDGE JUDY (TVPG):		05:30
06:00		HEADLINE NEWS (NN)	THE WASHINGTON MONUMENT: MONUMENT: IT STANDS FOR ALL - THE WASHINGTON MONUMENT: MONUMENT: IT STANDS FOR ALL	ACCESS HOLLYWOOD (NN)	LARRY KING LIVE (NN)	06:00
06:25				GUIDING LIGHT (TV14):		06:25
06:30	TOUR DE FRANCE (NN) - STAGE 1	ESPNEWS				06:30
07:00		SESAME STREET	STARS AND STRIPES FOREVER		CNN SUNDAY NIGHT (NN)	07:00
07:13				GENERAL HOSPITAL (TV14):		07:13
08:00		DORA THE EXPLORER (TVY): - TO THE SOUTH POLE		LILO & STITCH: THE ANIMATED SERIES (TVG): - MELTY	ACCESS HOLLYWOOD (NN)	08:00
08:30	ESPNEWS (NN)	WHEEL OF FORTUNE (TVG):		DIGIMON: DIGITAL MONSTERS (TVY7): - IT'S ALL IN THE CARDS		08:30
09:00	GOLF (NN) - U.S. WOMEN'S OPEN CHAMPIONSHIP: FINAL ROUND	THE DR. PHIL SHOW (TVPG):	RUGRATS (TVY): - DISCOVERING AMERICA	I SPY (TVY): - A BIRD I HEARD A SUPER SILLY PIZZA	BELTWAY BOYS (NN)	09:00
09:30			CAPITOL FOURTH, A	EVEN STEVENS (TVG): - SIBLING RIVALRY	FOX NEWS WATCH (NN)	09:30
09:46		THE OPRAH WINFREY SHOW (TVPG):				09:46
10:00				JEOPARDY! (TVG):	BULLS & BEARS (NN)	10:00
10:30				HEADLINE NEWS (NN)	CAVUTO ON BUSINESS (NN)	10:30
10:35		GUIDING LIGHT (TV14):				10:35
11:00			AVERAGE JOE: HAWAII (TV14): - THREE HUNKS AND THREE JOES SENT HOME!	ESPNEWS	DATELINE NBC (NN)	11:00
11:17		GENERAL HOSPITAL (TV14):				11:17
11:30				PACIFIC REPORT (NN)		11:30
12:00	SPORTSCENTER (NN)	HEADLINE NEWS (NN)	LAW & ORDER: SPECIAL VICTIMS UNIT (TV14): - PROTECTION	60 MINUTES (NN)	ACCESS HOLLYWOOD (NN)	12:00
12:30		JUDGE JUDY (TVPG):				12:30
13:00		TODAY (NN)	MONSTER GARAGE (TVPG): - UNDER THE HOOD	MACY'S 4TH OF JULY FIREWORKS SPECTACULAR	GOOD MORNING AMERICA (NN)	13:00
13:30	NASCAR NEXTEL CUP SERIES (NN) - PEPSI 400					13:30
14:00			AN AMERICAN CELEBRATION AT FORD'S THEATER	BOSTON POPS FIREWORKS SPECTACULAR		14:00
15:00		LILO & STITCH: THE ANIMATED SERIES (TVG): - MELTY	STARS AND STRIPES FOREVER	PACIFIC REPORT (NN)	HEADLINE NEWS (NN)	15:00
15:30		DIGIMON: DIGITAL MONSTERS (TVY7): - IT'S ALL IN THE CARDS		TONIGHT SHOW WITH JAY LENO (TVPG):	ABC WORLD NEWS THIS MORNING (NN)	15:30
16:00		I SPY (TVY): - A BIRD I HEARD A SUPER SILLY PIZZA			THE EARLY SHOW (NN)	16:00
16:30		EVEN STEVENS (TVG): - SIBLING RIVALRY		THE LATE SHOW WITH DAVID LETTERMAN (TVPG):		16:30
17:00	SPORTSCENTER (NN)	JEOPARDY! (TVG):	RUGRATS (TVY): - DISCOVERING AMERICA			17:00
17:30		HEADLINE NEWS (NN)	CAPITOL FOURTH, A	ACCESS HOLLYWOOD (NN)		17:30
18:00		ESPNEWS		A LESSON BEFORE DYING	FOX NEWS LIVE (NN)	18:00
18:30	BASEBALL TONIGHT (NN)	HEADLINE NEWS (NN)				18:30
19:00		60 MINUTES (NN)	AVERAGE JOE: HAWAII (TV14): - THREE HUNKS AND THREE JOES SENT HOME!		DATELINE NBC (NN)	19:00
19:30	ESPNEWS (NN)					19:30
20:00	MLB (NN) - CINCINNATI REDS @ ST. LOUIS CARDINALS	MACY'S 4TH OF JULY FIREWORKS SPECTACULAR	LAW & ORDER: SPECIAL VICTIMS UNIT (TV14): - PROTECTION	JUBAL	FOX NEWS LIVE (NN)	20:00
21:00		BOSTON POPS FIREWORKS SPECTACULAR	MONSTER GARAGE (TVPG): - UNDER THE HOOD		HEADLINE NEWS (NN)	21:00
21:30					INSIDE POLITICS (NN)	21:30
22:00		HEADLINE NEWS (NN)	AN AMERICAN CELEBRATION AT FORD'S THEATER	ESPNEWS: THE HOT LIST		22:00
22:30		TONIGHT SHOW WITH JAY LENO (TVPG):		HEADLINE NEWS (NN)	HEADLINE NEWS (NN)	22:30
23:00	MLB (NN) - COLORADO ROCKIES @ SAN FRANCISCO GIANTS (JIP)		STARS AND STRIPES FOREVER	TODAY (NN)	LESTER HOLT LIVE (NN)	23:00
23:30		THE LATE SHOW WITH DAVID LETTERMAN (TVPG):				23:30